

SEDAR Overview

SEFSC Assessment Program Review

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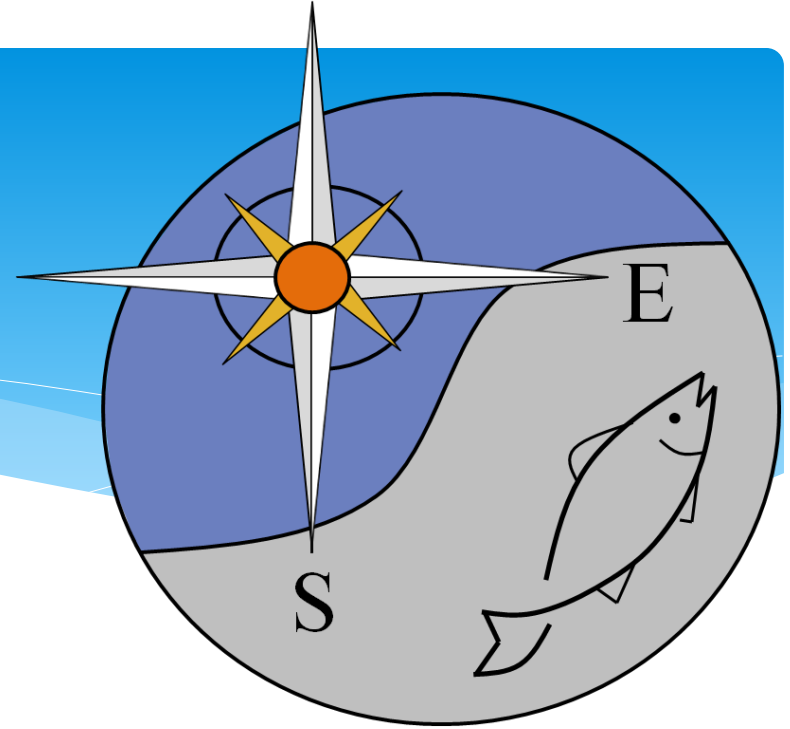
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SEDAR

- * Origin and Goals
- * Administration & Operational Procedures
- * Approach
- * Challenges

SEDAR Origin

2002: South Atlantic Red Porgy Assessment

- * species ID issue in state catch dataset
- * “system” not able to prevent such errors

SEFSC & SAFMC initiated new approach

Went Regional in 2003

- * 3 Councils and 2 Commissions
- * HMS added in 2006

SEDAR Goal

Improve the quality,
reliability, and relevance of
stock assessments

SEDAR Objectives

- * Broaden assessment participation
- * Provide an open and transparent process
- * Reduce data errors and omissions
- * Reduce individual decision-making
- * Increase data and model availability
- * Provide independent review
- * Improve planning and coordination
- * Provide thorough documentation of methods and data
- * Provide appropriate consistency in documentation, assessment approaches, and treatment of uncertainties

Not Objectives

- * Provide faster assessments
- * Serve as the only source of assessment information for the Cooperators
- * Ensure full constituent support of results
- * Provide scientific and assessment training

Administration & Procedures

Administration

- * Oversight: SEDAR Steering Committee
- * Administered by: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- * Staff
 - * SEDAR Program Manager
 - * SEDAR Coordinators

Staff are administrative, not technical
- * Council Process
 - * Governed by Council operational policies and regulations

SEDAR Steering Committee

Members (Cooperators)

- * Chairs + EDs of Councils
- * Commission Chairs
- * SEFSC + SERO + HMS reps

Chaired by the SEFSC Director

Responsibilities

- * Develop “SOPPs” = operational policies
- * Resolve Assessment Priorities and Schedule
 - at the project rather than activity level
 - based on Cooperator priorities

Prioritization Process

Workload management by assessment “slots”

- * SEFSC identifies # of slots available for each team
- * 2-3 years in advance

Cooperators prioritize annual needs

- * approaches vary; SSC input expected

Steering Committee fills “Slots”

- * Fall 2014 for 2016
- * balance slots with Cooperator priorities

Efforts for longer term planning mostly unsuccessful

- * stock changes & squeaky wheels
- * rule changes (MSA reauthorization)

Priority Planning Example

Year	Beaufort		Miami		Panama City	FL FWC	Procedures
	SAFMC	Commissions	GMFMC	CFMC	HMS		
2014	1-3: Red snapper / gray trigger B, begin 8/14 4. Gag U	5. ATL menhaden (Review)	1, 2: King Mackerel B 3,4 Red Snapper U 5.	6. Caribbean Data poor workshop 7. data poor assess stocks	1, 2. Smoothhound, ATL & GOM, B	Black Grouper U Mutton U – early '14 Hogfish B –RW '14	SA Shrimp Data Evaluation
2015	1,-3: RS/GT (cont) 4-5. tilefish, vermilion, red grouper U 1,2: scamp/gray snapper B (begin)	ATL Red Drum (Review) By Oct '15	1. Red grouper B 2. Vermilion B 3. Gray Trigger B 4. Scamp B 5. Red Snapper S	6. Queen conch 7. Spiny lobster	1. 2.	Yellowtail Snapper U	Best Practices - Data
2016	1, 2: scamp/gray snapper B 3. Red porgy B 4. 5.	ATL Croaker (Review)	1. Gag U 2. GAJ U 3. Red drum B 4. YE Gr. S 5. Gray Snap B	6. Grunts 6 spp			Best Practices - Assessment Methods

Participants

Workshop Panelists

- * provide decisions, recommendations, responsible for documentation and addressing TORs and reports

Analytical Team

- * prepare analyses & documentation
- * subset of panel, BUT ARE PANELISTS

Appointed Observers

- * non-technical participants in assessment and review steps

Public

- * attend workshops/webinars
- * submit comments

Participant Appointments

Workshop panelists appointed by:

- * SEFSC Director : SEFSC Staff, NMFS Staff, Scientists, Special Experts
- * SERO Regional Administrator: SERO Staff
- * Cooperators: Technical (SSC), University, State agency reps, constituents, NGO, anyone else deemed appropriate

Each Cooperator develops an appointment approach

Council appointees must be designated AP members

- enables groups to make recommendations

SEDAR provides travel support for cooperator appointees

- except Federal employees

Documentation

- * All publicly available (via website & Cooperators)
- * Types
 - Stock Assessment Report – primary assessment document
 - Working Papers – details on inputs, data, etc
 - Reference documents – useful published works
 - Presentations - ephemeral, facilitate discussion
 - Recordings – webinars and workshops are recorded
 - Administrative – SOPPs, report outlines, templates

SEDAR TORs

- * Terms of Reference specified for each project
- * Frameworks approved by Steering Committee, modified project by project
 - Lead analytical group offers first edits
- * Lead Cooperator (one requesting the assessment) responsible for approval
- * Cooperators adopt a process for TOR approval
 - include SSC review and formal approval
- * Evolution toward specificity
 - driven by cooperators desires/demands for content
 - exacerbated by lack of SAFE reports

Approach

Original Plan: Benchmarks

1. Data Workshop (DW)

- * Data compiled, reviewed & verified

2. Assessment Workshop (AW)

- * Models developed & evaluated

3. Review Workshop (RW)

- * Data, methods, results reviewed by independent panel

WORKSHOP RULES

- * Discuss only Science
 - Good Goal, hard to achieve
- * Panels reach CONSENSUS
- * Working meetings, everyone contribute
 - more talking than writing
- * Drafts prepared by workshop end
 - Good goal, never achieved
- * No management recommendations

Current Assessment Types

Type	Workshops	Review	Flexibility	Timing
Benchmark	3 AW may be webinar	Panel	Full	9 – 18 mos
Standard	DW/AW combo More if needed	SSC	Limited new data No model change SSC is arbiter	6 mos
Update	None	SSC	New data points only	3 mos

Public Input Opportunities

- * Written comment accepted throughout each project
 - part of record, provided to participants
- * Oral comment taken at each workshop
 - designated times at start and end
 - other times at chair's discretion & as needed
 - most formal during review
- * Also additional opportunities through each Cooperator

SSC Role in SEDAR

- * Critical Workshop Participants
- * Review Assessments for Compliance with Process
- * Evaluate assessments for Best Scientific Information
- * Develop specific recommendations
- * Report findings to Council

Performance

- * 42 benchmark or standard assessment “projects”
- * 59 individual species or stocks assessed
- * 101 stock assessments conducted (incl. underway)
 - 78 Benchmark
 - 6 Standard
 - 17 Update
- * 87% of active assessments are age 5y or less

South Atlantic Example

- * 25% of stocks representing 48% of the 2014 ACL assessed
- * Coastal Migratory Pelagics & Spiny Lobster: 100% assessed
- * Snapper Grouper: 24% of stocks, 66% of landings assessed
- * Dolphin/Wahoo & Golden Crab: 3 stocks, none assessed
- * Shrimp, Sargassum not included

Challenges

The image features a solid blue background with a white wavy line at the bottom, creating a sense of movement or a horizon. The word "Challenges" is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

Capacity & Throughput

SEDAR struggles to meet Cooperator demands for assessments

TRANSPARENT

**Pick
any 2**

THOROUGH

TIMELY

Consistency

Consistency between assessments is an ongoing issue and common source of criticism

- * 7 different assessment “Teams”

- SEFSC Miami: Gulf
- SEFSC Miami: Caribbean
- SEFSC, Panama City: HMS
- SEFSC, Beaufort: South Atlantic
- FL FWCC: South Florida/SA+GOM stocks
- ASMFC: Atlantic Stocks
- GSMFC: Gulf Stocks

- * 8 Cooperators

- * 3 Management Systems

- Council (MSA), State (Commissions), HMS

- * Biological Overlap

- Same species names, different stocks and ecosystems

Extensive Commitment Required

Getting appropriate participants involved and keeping them engaged is challenging in a protracted and rigorous process

- * Benchmark participation requires a considerable time commitment
- * Schedule intimidating to active fishermen, yet they have the first hand knowledge desired
- * Scarce technical expertise in the region (SSC, states), challenging to fill the various workshop seats

Many Cooks in the Kitchen

➤ Cooperators in the SEDAR Process:

- **NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center**
- **NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office**
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**
- **Caribbean Fishery Management Council**
- **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
- **Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission**
- **NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Division**

Conclusions

- * Designed to deal with complex & controversial benchmark assessments
- * Council Process with dedicated staff
- * Overseen by a Steering Committee
- * Broad participation
- * Transparent and Open
- * Adaptable and responsive to changing circumstances
- * Difficult to meet expectations of all participants